## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /026 W

-----201956Z 026249 /44

R 201340Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9624

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 732

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: W/W ARREST: THOMAS HIDEYASU NAKADA

REF: COTONOU 0636

- 1. NAKADA AND SWEDISH CITIZEN, KENNET KARLSSON, WHO ARRESTED WITH HIM, REMAIN IN JAIL. CONSUL AND/OR VICE CONSUL HAVE ATTEMPTED TO SEE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS TO PUSH CASE AN AVERAGE OF OVER TWO TIMES DAILY SINCE ARREST, SOMETIMES WAITING HOURS IN EFFORT TO GET THROUGH. SWEDISH DIPLOMATS FROM LAGOS TWICE ASSISTED IN EFFORT.
- 2. VARIOUS POLICE OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US THAT INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHED THAT PRISONERS ARE TOURISTS AND HAVE NOT COMMITTED ANY CRIME, AND THAT DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RELEASE THEM. ON 16 APRIL CONSUL FINALLY HAD AUDIENCE WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STATE POLICE, WHO REITERATED THAT PRISONERS ARE INNOCENT, BUT ADDED THAT ONLY MINISTER OF INTERIOR PERSONALLY NOW HAS AUTHORITY TO RELEASE PRISONERS AND THAT DOSSIERS ON CASE SENT TO HIS OFFICE. FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO REACH MINISTER ON 16 APRIL FAILED.
- 3. ON 18 APRIL CONSUL MET DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHO SYMPATHETIC AND PROMISED TO BRING CASE TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF MINISTER. AS CONSUL LEAVING, HE SAW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL TAKING EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN TO MINISTER'S OFFICE. ON MORNING OF 19 APRIL CONSUL TRIED TO FOLLOW UP, AND WAS TOLD THAT NO SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE IN. WE CONTINUING TO PUSH.

4. PRINSONERS REMAIN IN GOOD HEALTH, BUT GETTING DISCOURAGED AT LONG DELAYS. CONSUL AND CONSUL'S SECRETARY PROVIDING THREE MEALS A DAY, DRINKS, ANTI-MALARIA PILLS, AND READING MATERIALS TO PRISONERS, AT OWN EXPENSE. EACH TIME MEALS DELIVERED BY CONSUL, HE HAS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRISONERS. OTHER THAN FOR INORDINATE DELAY IN SECURING RELEASE, PRISONERS BEING WELL-TREATED.

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

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Disposition Reason:
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Subject: W/W ARREST: THOMAS HIDEYASU NAKADA

TAGS: CASC, (NAKADA, THOMAS HIDEYASU)

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